

**HELIUM STATISTICS**  
**By Thomas D. Kelly and Norbert Pacheco**  
[All values in metric tons (t) unless otherwise noted]  
Last modification: August 10, 2004

| Year | Production | Shipments | Imports | Exports | Stocks  | Apparent consumption | Unit value (\$/t) | Unit value (98\$/t) | World production |
|------|------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1935 | 49.0       |           |         |         |         | 49                   |                   |                     | 49.0             |
| 1936 | 22.4       |           |         |         |         | 22                   |                   |                     | 22.4             |
| 1937 | 23.1       |           |         |         |         | 23                   |                   |                     | 23.1             |
| 1938 | 29.2       |           |         |         |         | 29                   | 2,830             | 32,700              | 29.2             |
| 1939 | 30.1       |           |         |         |         | 30                   | 2,800             | 32,900              | 30.1             |
| 1940 | 45.3       |           |         |         |         | 56                   | 2,360             | 27,500              | 45.3             |
| 1941 | 77.5       | 106       |         |         |         | 57                   | 2,010             | 22,300              | 77.5             |
| 1942 | 159        | 173       |         |         |         | 173                  | 2,140             | 21,400              | 159              |
| 1943 | 558        | 559       |         |         |         | 559                  | 2,260             | 21,400              | 558              |
| 1944 | 608        | 592       |         |         |         | 609                  | 2,390             | 22,100              | 608              |
| 1945 | 454        | 291       |         |         | 99      | 454                  | 2,510             | 22,900              | 454              |
| 1946 | 279        | 211       |         |         | 139     | 278                  | 2,640             | 22,000              | 279              |
| 1947 | 337        | 251       |         |         | 94      | 337                  | 2,760             | 20,200              | 337              |
| 1948 | 303        | 244       |         |         |         | 303                  | 2,760             | 18,700              | 303              |
| 1949 | 264        | 247       |         |         |         | 244                  | 2,760             | 18,900              | 264              |
| 1950 | 390        | 390       |         |         |         | 388                  | 2,870             | 19,400              | 390              |
| 1951 | 537        | 537       |         |         |         | 523                  | 2,760             | 17,400              | 537              |
| 1952 | 693        | 693       |         |         |         | 695                  | 2,760             | 17,000              | 693              |
| 1953 | 772        | 756       |         |         |         | 757                  | 2,780             | 16,900              | 772              |
| 1954 | 914        | 910       |         |         | 418     | 911                  | 2,990             | 18,100              | 914              |
| 1955 | 1,060      | 1,131     |         |         | 341     | 1,130                | 3,670             | 22,400              | 1,060            |
| 1956 | 1,170      | 1,280     |         |         | 222     | 1,280                | 3,670             | 22,000              | 1,170            |
| 1957 | 1,400      | 1,488     |         |         | 117     | 1,490                | 3,670             | 21,200              | 1,400            |
| 1958 | 1,600      | 1,688     |         |         | 83      | 1,690                | 3,670             | 20,700              | 1,600            |
| 1959 | 2,290      | 1,800     |         |         | 518     | 1,800                | 3,670             | 20,500              | 2,290            |
| 1960 | 3,080      | 2,278     |         |         | 1,310   | 2,280                | 3,670             | 20,200              | 3,080            |
| 1961 | 3,490      | 2,645     |         |         | 2,140   | 2,640                | 3,670             | 19,900              | 3,490            |
| 1962 | 3,420      | 2,874     |         | 43      | 2,510   | 3,020                | 7,440             | 40,000              | 3,420            |
| 1963 | 10,700     | 3,007     |         | 0       | 10,100  | 3,170                | 7,440             | 39,600              | 10,800           |
| 1964 | 19,300     | 3,199     |         | 0       | 26,000  | 3,420                | 7,440             | 39,200              | 19,400           |
| 1965 | 20,900     | 3,349     |         | 0       | 43,500  | 3,630                | 7,440             | 38,400              | 21,000           |
| 1966 | 22,100     | 3,876     |         | 0       | 61,000  | 4,540                | 7,440             | 37,400              | 22,100           |
| 1967 | 22,500     | 4,349     |         | 192     | 79,200  | 4,160                | 7,440             | 36,300              | 22,700           |
| 1968 | 22,300     | 4,157     |         | 312     | 97,400  | 3,840                | 7,440             | 34,900              | 22,500           |
| 1969 | 22,300     | 3,641     |         | 431     | 116,000 | 3,210                | 7,440             | 33,100              | 22,500           |
| 1970 | 22,100     | 3,103     |         | 503     | 135,000 | 2,600                | 7,440             | 31,200              | 22,200           |
| 1971 | 21,900     | 2,765     |         | 513     | 154,000 | 2,250                | 7,440             | 30,000              | 22,400           |
| 1972 | 19,600     | 3,007     |         | 537     | 171,000 | 2,470                | 7,440             | 29,000              | 20,200           |
| 1973 | 15,400     | 3,103     |         | 561     | 183,000 | 2,540                | 7,440             | 27,300              | 16,000           |
| 1974 | 4,240      | 3,351     |         | 618     | 184,000 | 2,730                | 7,440             | 24,600              | 4,900            |
| 1975 | 5,170      | 3,573     |         | 690     | 185,000 | 2,880                | 7,440             | 22,500              | 5,870            |
| 1976 | 6,690      | 3,876     |         | 834     | 187,000 | 3,040                | 7,440             | 21,300              | 7,120            |
| 1977 | 6,370      | 4,513     |         | 805     | 189,000 | 3,730                | 7,440             | 20,000              | 7,830            |
| 1978 | 6,550      | 4,735     |         | 911     | 191,000 | 3,890                | 7,440             | 18,600              | 8,400            |
| 1979 | 7,280      | 5,272     |         | 1,170   | 193,000 | 3,920                | 7,440             | 16,700              | 8,890            |
| 1980 | 6,540      | 5,629     |         | 1,430   | 194,000 | 4,140                | 7,440             | 14,700              | 7,560            |
| 1981 | 5,110      | 6,018     |         | 1,860   | 193,000 | 4,150                | 7,440             | 13,300              | 5,580            |
| 1982 | 1,110      | 5,966     |         | 1,810   | 188,000 | 4,160                | 7,440             | 12,600              | 1,830            |
| 1983 | 2,760      | 6,532     |         | 1,760   | 184,000 | 4,770                | 7,970             | 13,000              | 3,480            |
| 1984 | 5,630      | 7,849     |         | 1,880   | 182,000 | 5,970                | 7,970             | 12,500              | 8,570            |
| 1985 | 4,780      | 9,027     | 0       | 2,100   | 178,000 | 6,920                | 7,970             | 12,100              | 9,750            |
| 1986 | 4,770      | 9,307     | 0       | 2,070   | 173,000 | 7,230                | 7,970             | 11,900              | 10,000           |

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| <b>Year</b> | <b>Production</b> | <b>Shipments</b> | <b>Imports</b> | <b>Exports</b> | <b>Stocks</b> | <b>Apparent<br/>consumption</b> | <b>Unit value<br/>(\$/t)</b> | <b>Unit value<br/>(98\$/t)</b> | <b>World<br/>production</b> |
|-------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1987        | 9,240             | 10,496           | 0              | 2,370          | 172,000       | 8,130                           | 7,970                        | 11,400                         | 11,600                      |
| 1988        | 10,700            | 12,087           | 0              | 3,110          | 171,000       | 8,970                           | 7,970                        | 11,000                         | 13,300                      |
| 1989        | 11,200            | 13,526           | 0              | 3,740          | 165,000       | 9,780                           | 7,970                        | 10,500                         | 14,800                      |
| 1990        | 17,800            | 14,356           | 0              | 4,180          | 162,000       | 10,200                          | 7,970                        | 9,950                          | 15,600                      |
| 1991        | 14,600            | 14,914           | 0              | 4,590          | 161,000       | 10,300                          | 7,990                        | 9,560                          | 15,900                      |
| 1992        | 15,600            | 15,981           | 0              | 5,200          | 161,000       | 10,800                          | 11,700                       | 13,600                         | 16,900                      |
| 1993        | 16,800            | 16,184           | 0              | 4,740          | 162,000       | 11,400                          | 11,700                       | 13,200                         | 16,900                      |
| 1994        | 19,000            | 16,929           | 0              | 4,230          | 164,000       | 12,800                          | 11,700                       | 12,900                         | 17,900                      |
| 1995        | 17,100            | 16,269           | 0              | 4,690          | 164,000       | 11,600                          | 11,700                       | 12,500                         | 18,800                      |
| 1996        | 17,400            | 16,032           | 0              | 3,860          | 166,000       | 12,200                          | 11,700                       | 12,200                         | 18,800                      |
| 1997        | 19,600            | 18,114           | 24             | 4,990          | 167,000       | 13,100                          | 11,700                       | 11,900                         | 23,400                      |
| 1998        | 19,300            | 18,960           | 40             | 4,710          | 163,000       | 14,300                          | 11,700                       | 11,700                         | 22,700                      |
| 1999        | 19,300            | 19,800           | 0              | 4,540          | 166,000       | 15,200                          | 11,700                       | 11,400                         | 22,900                      |
| 2000        | 16,600            | 21,500           | 0              | 6,260          | 161,000       | 15,200                          | 11,700                       | 11,100                         | 19,800                      |
| 2001        | 14,700            | 15,100           | 0              | 7,280          | 153,000       | 15,100                          | 10,700                       | 9,840                          | 17,900                      |
| 2002        | 14,800            | 14,800           | 0              | 6,690          | 147,000       | 14,800                          | 11,000                       | 9,960                          | 18,500                      |

## Helium Worksheet Notes

### Data Sources

Sources of data for the helium worksheet are the mineral statistics publications of the U.S. Bureau of Mines and the U.S. Geological Survey—Minerals Yearbook (MYB) and its predecessor, Mineral Resources of the United States (MR). The years of publication and corresponding years of data coverage are listed in the References section below. Blank cells in the worksheet indicate that data were not available. Helium volume measured at 70° F and 14.7 pounds per square inch absolute (psia) was converted to weight with the conversion: 169.29 metric tons (t) = 1 million cubic meters.

### Production

Production data for the years 1935–2002 were recorded from the MYB. Production data for the years 1935–2002 represent the total helium content in Grade-A and crude helium that was recovered as a constituent of natural gas.

### Shipments

Shipment data for the years 1941–2002 were recorded from the MYB. Shipment data for the years 1941–2002 represent the total quantity of Grade-A helium that was produced in the United States and sold to domestic recipients. Data were not available for the years 1935–40.

### Imports

Import data for the years 1985–2002 were recorded from the MYB. Import data for the years 1985–2002 represent the quantity of helium that was imported annually into the United States. Data were not available for the years 1935–84.

### Exports

Export data for the years 1962–2002 were recorded from the MYB. Export data for the years 1962–2002 represent the quantity of Grade-A helium that was exported from the United States. Data were not available for the years 1935–61.

### Stocks

Stock data for the years 1945–2002 were recorded from the MYB. Stock data for the years 1945–2002 represent the total quantity of helium that is stored annually in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) helium conservation storage system. Data were not available for the years 1935–44 and 1948–53.

### Apparent Consumption

Apparent consumption data for the years 1940–41, 1944, 1946, and 1949–2002 were recorded from the MYB. Apparent consumption data for the years 1940–41, 1944, 1946, and 1949–2000 represent the total quantity of helium that was consumed annually within the United States. Apparent consumption data for the years 1935–39, 1942–43, 1945, and 1947–48 were not available. Subsequently, because import and export data were not available for the years 1935–39, 1942–43, 1945, and 1947–48, apparent consumption was estimated to be equal to production.

### Unit Value (\$/t)

Unit value data for the years 1938–2002 were recorded from the MYB. Unit value data for the years 1938–2002 represent the average value per metric ton of Grade-A helium as produced in the United States. Unit value data for the years 1942–46 were not available. Subsequently, unit value data for the years 1942–46 were interpolated. Data were not available for the years 1935–37.

### Unit Value (98\$/t)

The Consumer Price Index conversion factor, with 1998 as the base year, is used to adjust unit value in current U.S. dollars to the unit value in constant 1998 U.S. dollars.

### World Production

World production data for the years 1935–1971 were recorded from the MYB. World Production data for the years 1972–2002 were recorded from the MCS. World production data for the years 1935–2002 represent the summed quantity of total U.S. helium production and the total estimated production capacity of all other helium-producing countries. For the years 1935–62, world production is equal to U.S. production.

### References

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